

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended Claims 1 and 10 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-11 are objected to because of minor informalities; Claims 1, 2, 5, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshihara et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,172,233, herein Yoshihara) in view of Imafuji et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,585,875, herein Imafuji) and Furlani et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,659,805, herein Furlani); Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Imafuji, Furlani and Kawakami et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,780,739, herein Kawakami); Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Imafuji, Furlani and Namerikawa et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,089,090, herein Namerikawa); and Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Imafuji, Furlani and Hasegawa (U.S. Pat. 5,900,927).

Regarding the objection to Claims 1-11, Claims 1 and 10 are amended as recommended in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 1-11 be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 5, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yoshihara in view of Imafuji and Furlani. In response to this rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 10 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

¹ e.g., specification, Fig. 3 and p. 19, ll. 11-21.

Amended independent Claim 1, for example, recites an apparatus for correcting a deviation of an imaging sensor of a digital camera in which an image of an object or a scene is formed on an image plane of the imaging sensor so that the imaging sensor outputs an image signal, comprising:

a rotation detecting unit which detects a quantity of rotation of the digital camera causing the deviation of the imaging sensor from a reference position to occur, the rotation detecting unit including an acceleration sensor provided in the digital camera to output a signal indicative of an acceleration of the digital camera and a magnetic sensor provided in the digital camera to output a signal indicative of a magnetic field of the digital camera,
wherein ***the acceleration sensor and the magnetic sensor are integral with a body of the digital camera.***

Independent Claim 10, while directed to an alternative embodiment, is amended to recite similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 10.

In rejecting Claim 1, p. 3 of the Office Action concedes that Yoshihara fails to disclose “the rotation detecting unit including an acceleration sensor provided in the digital camera ...” or “the rotation detecting unit including a magnetic sensor provided in the digital camera ...” Therefore, Yoshihara fails to teach or suggest the more detailed feature that “***the acceleration sensor and the magnetic sensor are integral with a body of the digital camera***”, as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

In attempt to cure the deficiencies of Yoshihara with respect to the acceleration sensor, the Office Action relies on col. 1, ll. 25-35 of Imafuji. This cited portion of Imafuji describes a “Related Art” vibration correction device that detects a force received when a body rotates (“coriolis force”) by using acceleration sensors and like vibration detection sensors, such as angular velocity sensors or piezoelectric elements. Based upon the result of the detection by the sensors, a main optical system of the camera comprising a photographic lens system, or a portion of the optical system, such as an optical system for vibration

correction, is shifted to compensate for vibration in a plane which is orthogonal relative to the optical axis of the main optical system.

Imafuji, therefore, does appear to describe the use of an acceleration sensor to detect vibration, but fails to disclose how such a sensor is disposed, much less that “***the acceleration sensor ... [is] integral with a body of the digital camera***”, as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

In attempt to cure the deficiencies of Yoshihara with respect to the magnetic sensor, the Office Action relies on Figs. 1A-4 and col. 2, l. 63 – col. 3, l. 24 of Furlani and asserts that the three sensors 90a, 90b and 90c are analogous to the claimed “magnetic sensor provided in the digital camera to output a signal indicative of a magnetic field of the digital camera”. However, as described in this cited portion of Furlani, the three sensors 90a, 90b and 90c are “attached to the camera housing 20”. Thus, the three sensors are not “***integral with a body of the digital camera***” as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

Therefore, Yoshihara, even if combined with Imafuji and Furlani, fails to teach or suggest an apparatus for correcting a deviation of an imaging sensor of a digital camera that includes a rotation detecting unit including an acceleration sensor provided in the digital camera and a magnetic sensor provided in the digital camera to output a signal indicative of a magnetic field of the digital camera, wherein “***the acceleration sensor and the magnetic sensor are integral with a body of the digital camera***”, as recited in amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons, it is also submitted that Claim 10 (and Claim 11, which depends therefrom) patentably defines over Yoshihara, Imafuji and Furlani.

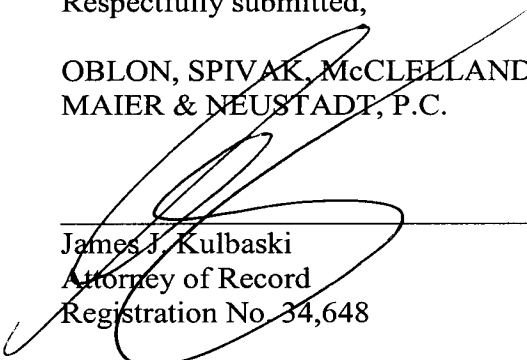
With regard to the rejection of Claims 3-4, 6-8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Yoshihara, Imafuji and Furlani in view of Kawakami, Namerikawa or Hasegawa, Applicants note that each of Claims 3-4, 6-8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. It is also submitted that none of Kawakami, Namerikawa or Hasegawa cure the above noted deficiencies of Yoshihara, Imafuji and Furlani.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 3-4, 6-8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-11 patentably define over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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